



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations, 237 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022
Tex: (212) 888-5770 Fax: (212) 888-5213 E-mail: zambia@un.int

Please check against delivery

STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. MR. TENS C KAPOMA
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**PLENARY OF THE 60TH
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON
AGENDA ITEM 15: QUESTION OF PALESTINE**

New York
November 30, 2005

Mr. President,

Once again, as we have done in previous General Assembly sessions, we are called upon to discuss the important question of peace and security in the Middle East. The question of Palestine has been before this august Assembly for the past 60 years. It is therefore an issue, which all Member States follow with keen interest. My delegation wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his incisive reports on the subject under consideration contained in documents A/60/539 and A/60/35.

Mr. President,

Zambia welcomes the recent developments that have taken place with regard to some aspects of the Middle East peace process. After 38 years of restrictions, the Palestinian people are today able to cross freely at least from the Gaza Strip into neighbouring Arab Republic of Egypt. It is the view of my delegation that this development, positive and welcome as it may, has been long overdue. The State of Israel should be encouraged to build on this positive step towards lasting peace in that troubled region. As Member States are aware, this august Assembly has demanded in the past through its resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) that Israel should withdraw from all occupied Arab territories acquired through the 1967 and 1973 wars.

Mr. President,

The question of an independent Palestine living in peace side by side with Israel remains to date the ultimate objective of the Middle East peace process. The way forward therefore is for the international community to impress upon the parties to fully implement the quartet Road Map that has been endorsed by the United Nations. My delegation calls upon the parties to the peace process namely, the Palestinians and the Israelis to take bold steps towards fulfilling the desired objectives. Given the complex nature of the peace process, the United Nations Secretary-General is urged to continue to spearhead the efforts of the international community to ensure the full fruition of the peace process.

Mr. President,

It is clear, as indicated by recent developments, that both parties to the conflict are committed to seeking an acceptable resolution. However, there are still some outstanding issues that need urgent attention. One such issue is the construction of the security wall by the State of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories. The construction of the wall remains not only an obstacle to peace, but also a violation of the

principles of international law, including humanitarian and human rights laws.

Mr. President,

My delegations holds the view that flexibility on this issue on the part of the State of Israel would facilitate an early compromise that would contribute to addressing its security concerns thus help to reach a satisfactory solution to the age long conflict of the Middle East.

Mr. President,

My delegation is hopeful that with necessary commitment and determination by all concerned, a final solution to the question of Palestine is possible in the near future. It will, however, require courage, compromise and skill on the part of the leaders of the two peoples of Israel and Palestine respectively.

In conclusion, Mr. President, my Government fully supports the current Road Map in the Middle East peace process and is confident that given the political will, a lasting solution will be achieved. Zambia looks forward to the participation of the State of Palestine in the deliberations of the United Nations as a full member in the very near future.

I thank you.